

What is claimed is:

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45. A method of filtering fluids comprising the steps of:
  - (a) flowing at least two fluids into a housing;
  - (b) passing the fluids around a filter element partially surrounded by an a non-permeable barrier at the lower end of the filter element;
  - (c) allowing the fluids to separate by gravity so that the lighter fluid can flow above the sleeve in the housing above the barrier;
  - (d) further passing the lighter fluid through a filter media;
  - (e) collecting the lighter fluid after passing through the filter element; and
  - (f) collecting the heavier fluid in the housing.
46. A method of filtering fluids of claim 45 wherein the fluid mixture contains solids and additionally filtering the solids by the filter element.
47. A method of filtering fluids comprising the steps of:
  - (a) flowing at least two fluids into a housing;
  - (b) passing the fluids around a filter element partially surrounded by an a non-permeable barrier at the upper end of the filter element;
  - (c) allowing the fluids to separate by gravity so that the lighter fluid can flow above the sleeve in the housing adjacent to the barrier;

- (d) further passing the heavier fluid through a filter media;
- (e) collecting the heavier fluid after passing through the filter element; and
- (f) collecting the lighter fluid in the housing.

48. A method of filtering fluids of claim 47 wherein the fluid mixture contains solids and additionally filtering the solids by the filter element.